

Why are you seeking this office? What improvements would you make? What is your platform?

I am seeking the Ward 1 seat because I want to give back to the community that has been so good to me and my family. It is an opportunity to expand my public service career to my city, apply my work and life experiences to help my community and the citizens who live in Lakewood.

I will work to improve the relationship between the community, council and the city administration. Fostering those relationships is imperative to productive dialogue, communication and trust. My transparent, honest and open style of management will assist to bridge the gaps that exist with some members of the community. I will utilize my extensive collaboration experience to be inclusive of all parties who may be impacted by the decision making process and work to promote opportunities for all voices to be heard. Working together as one unit will be more productive and efficient.

My platform is quite simple. One, maintain Lakewood's success as a progressive inner ring suburb. To sustain the progress it is imperative we preserve its strong core. The core is the framework which consists of the public safety forces that keeps our community safe. Two, the roadways and sidewalks need to be continuously repaired and maintained in good condition to meet the demands of drivers, walkers and bikers. Three, the housing stock is diverse and it needs constant monitoring to ensure safety, compliance, livability and affordability.

Have you ever worked as a political lobbyist or undertaken lobbying activities? If yes, please note dates, the political entity lobbied and subject of that lobbying.

No

How would you improve communication between city council and constituents?

First, we must provide sufficient opportunities and avenues for the constituents to be a part of the discussions. As a member of city council I will strive to determine the best point of contact for each household. For example, not all constituents have internet, a computer or a smart phone to readily search when town hall or information sessions are being hosted. Similar to block leaders we could utilize the same concept for communication purposes. I am of the opinion that the constituents should not have to seek out information and it should be readily and easily available to them. Sadly, many citizens are ill-informed or do not have an interest in the issues affecting Lakewood, particularly because they are unaware. It is council's duty to ensure information is shared with the people, those that council is entrusted to serve. Each Ward council person can work to identify a point person for each street. That volunteer can assist council to obtain the email addresses or phone numbers for the residents on that particular street. They can also identify neighbors who may need help with transportation to meetings. My idea is to work collectively with council and the citizens. Obtaining buy in from the community that communication about issues and concerns is important, and it needs to be inclusive of everyone. In addition, if folks cannot or do not want to attend meetings council can utilize monthly email blasts containing highlights that pertain to Lakewood.

Please list one great challenge and one great opportunity facing Lakewood in the coming years, and how you'd prioritize it on council.

One great challenge facing Lakewood is the continued planning, investing and funding to improve the sewer system while maintaining compliance with the Clean Water Act. This project is complicated and it directly impacts the City's budget and forecasting the financial cost while balancing the other needs of the city is a challenge.

One great opportunity facing Lakewood is the availability for economic development. We need to be smart when planning development sites and balance the housing and business needs, and how potential development will impact the neighborhood. Development is also an opportunity to attract larger employers and minority business owners.

Opening statement on your candidacy (200 words): I have dedicated my entire professional career to public service and helping other people. My career has been spent in positions of trust. I am required to make difficult decisions with integrity, that are fair and just. Those experiences coupled with my strong work ethic and unique qualifications have prepared me well to serve on council. My work experiences align with the responsibilities required of council. Lakewood needs well-qualified individuals to serve on council to make the important decisions that will impact the community. My career is sprinkled with leadership roles and I know first-hand the importance of being accountable to the people you serve. As a Court Administrator for the past four years, I have gained extensive knowledge in overseeing an almost \$60 million budget and the challenges that arise when funding is cut. Further, I manage close to 600 staff, we have created and implemented policy and procedure that ensures equal treatment and fairness, collaborated with partners and the community on initiatives, all of which will bring value to council and the citizens we serve. As a long time home owner and resident of Lakewood I am excited for the opportunity to work for the constituents of my community.